

From: Chris Linstid
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 2:00pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

As a consumer of Microsoft products (forced and voluntarily) and as a citizen of the United States, I believe it is my duty to inform the Justice Department (as I'm sure many have before me) that the "Revised Proposed Final Judgement" is too weak as to keep Microsoft from continuing its monopolistic business practices and does not thoroughly punish Microsoft for its many years of antitrust activities. Many of the provisions of the settlement are a good step in the right direction, but they are not forceful enough and some require more clarification.

My specific comments are as follows:

1. In Section III, C, 4: An installation of a Windows operating system should at least ask before it re-writes the master boot record (MBR) on a hard drive. Currently, all Windows operating systems (after and including Windows 95) re-write the MBR upon installation, which disables most boot loaders for alternate operating systems, leaving only Windows bootable.
2. Microsoft should allow use of a non-Microsoft browser to download Windows update patches. Currently with Windows 98 and above, Microsoft's Internet Explorer is required to update Windows, including fixing most security holes and basic functionality.
3. After installation of a Windows operating system, activation of access to the Internet should not require deletion of the "MSN Icon" in order to not have to go through signing up for MSN's ISP. (this was still the case with Windows 98 and Windows ME)

Though I have not provided any suggestions on how to make this settlement more effective at stopping Microsoft's monopolistic practices, I am not a business person or a lawyer so my knowledge of antitrust law is somewhat limited. However, I am a software engineer and I understand that these "flaws" in Microsoft's software are not mistakes, they are purposely done to promote Microsoft software to the point of anticompetitive practices.

I hope these comments will help bring Microsoft to justice.

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